

John Tillman Upchurch**XID – 4943**

Commentary: John Tillman Upchurch was a son of Burrell and a grandson of James IV, head of Upchurch Clan 15. He and his wife, Margaret Scott McGregor would have two children.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks go out to Hope Blackford for her tireless efforts in transcribing Phil Upchurch's Biofiles, so that countless others will be able to appreciate Phil's work.

(1) See order 15 Feb 1980 from Mrs. Wayne Sullivan.

“Need info: **John Tillman Riley Upchurch** (my great grandfather) born 19 Feb 1829, died 11 Jan 1851 Choctaw Co., AL, married Sarah Margaret McGregor born 15 Aug 1829 AL, died 23 Jan 1899 TX. don't know his parents and back.”

(2) See Burwell Upchurch Page 15 supplied by Roy White in his 30 Mar 1980 letter to RPU.

John Tillman Riley Upchurch born 19 Feb 1829 (probably in Wilcox, AL), died 11 Jan 1851 (near Yantley, Choctaw Co., AL), married 16 Dec 1847 Sarah Dudley Mary Hester Margaret Scott Bryan McGregor.

(3) See letter 23 Mar 1981 from Etta Bell Lewter to RPU.

“**John Tilghman Riley Upchurch** born 17 Feb 1824, died 11 Jan 1851, married Sarah Margaret MacGregor.” [Note: Belle does not say where she got this info. RPU]

(4) See letter received 2 Nov 1981 by RPU from Rebecca Reed Humphries.

“**John Tillman Riley Upchurch** died of malaria fever. He had only two children.”

(5) See letter 28 Nov 1997 Juanita Ernestine Upchurch to RPU. Juanita is the great granddaughter of **John Tillman Riley Upchurch**. Juanita writes:

We did not receive much info on the family history. I suspect that after **John Tillman Riley** died and Sarah M. came to TX with her family, contact with the Upchurches stopped. We were told that we did not have any Upchurch kin in TX including the ones who lived in Red River Co.

The McGregors came to TX from AL sometime in 1851 or 1852. Sarah M. Upchurch married Benjah Bryan (Bryant) in 1855 and had two children who died young. She signed her name as Bryan.

There is more than one version about when **John Tillman Riley Upchurch**'s sons came to TX or how. My father B. R. Upchurch told us that they came to TX with Sarah M., their mother, when John Bartlett was 12 years old. They traveled by covered wagon. Aunt Mary told that Sarah M. left the boys in AL with a woman, then a few years later went back for them.

(6) Sheet 7 in 30 Mar 1980 letter Roy White, Jr. to RPU.

Burwell Upchurch [Note: This is an account of a trip made by Roy NMN White, Jr. – RPU.]

Northern Choctaw Co., AL

At the site of an old abandoned cemetery, known as “Wilson Cemetery”, now completely overgrown and uncared for, was found the marked grave of **John Tillman Riley Upchurch** (per Roy White). Said cemetery located on land then owned by Carl Rollison near Yantley, AL (about two miles south of land where the Upchurches are suspected to have lived last.)

The aged Negro man who led us (Robert Lee Upchurch and myself) to the site said there used to be a “whole gang” of markers in the cemetery but that over the years people had carried them off knowing the cemetery was abandoned. The only marker left was that of **John Tillman Riley Upchurch**.

Further, the Negro man stated he remembered plainly there were two Upchurch markers, just alike, side by side.

Question: Is the missing Upchurch marker that of Burwell (2029)?

Mary Price who operated small grocery store nearby put us on to the Wilson Cemetery.

Roy White
5022 Moore Dale Lane
Salt Lake City, Utah 84117

(7) Page 17 from letter 30 Mar 1980 Roy NMN White, Jr. to RPU.

[Family Group Sheet]

Husband: **John Tillman Riley Upchurch** born 19 Feb 1829 probably in Wilcox Co., AL
[Information obtained from H. E. Humphries Family Bible, Route 1, Annona, TX.]

died 11 Jan 1851 in Choctaw Co., AL [Information obtained Red River Co., TX Records.]

buried Jan 1851 near Yantley, Choctaw Co., AL [Information obtained Boxelder Cemetery, S.E. Red River Co. via Mrs. Wayne Sullivan of 2715 – 55th St., Lubbock TX 79413.]

married 16 Dec 1847 in Sumter Co., AL

His father: Burwell Upchurch

Wife: Sarah Dudley Mary Hester Margaret Scott Bryan McGregor

[Note: Sarah et al was known as "Sarah Margaret".]

born 15 Aug 1829 in AL

died 23 Jan 1899 in Red River Co., TX

married (2) Benajah W. Bryant

her father: William Turner McGregor

mother's Maiden Name: Ellender Allen

Children: Burrell Turner Upchurch, born 17 Oct 1848 in Choctaw, AL, died 5 Mar 1865

John Bartlett Upchurch born 22 Nov 1849 in Choctaw, AL, married to Julia B. Hardison on 7 Feb 1877, died 25 Sep 1910

Husband's Full Name: **John Tillman Riley Upchurch**

Wife's Maiden Name: Sarah O. M. H. M. S. B. McGregor

Date: June 1968

Compiler: Roy White, Jr.

(8) From letter 20 Mar 1998 Juanita Ernestine Upchurch to RPU.

Also read somewhere that the babies that died at birth or soon after were buried at Boxelder Cemetery. I do not believe they are buried there. We have a large family plot and I have never seen any marker for them. They have recently finished plotting and recording all the graves by rows. I will check that next time I'm there. This last fall my sister in law and I went through the Upchurch lot. I ended up cleaning a growth off several tombstones.

I have not found out where Sarah M. McGregor-Bryn Upchurch was buried, neither the husband nor the children.

[Note: The “babies” refer to the three children of John Bartlett Upchurch Sr who died as infants, namely: Alpha NMN Upchurch, Catherine NMN Upchurch, and Omega NMN Upchurch. The “husband” refers to Benjah W. Bryant.]

(9) From letter 13 Dec 1998 Juanita Ernestine Upchurch to RPU.

I did gain a little bit of hand me down info. When **John Tillman Riley Upchurch** died, his wife Sarah Margaret McGregor did not get a penny of his property. His brothers claimed it under an old English law that property went to male heirs, grown, and not the wife nor minor children. Guess that is the reason they did not claim kin to the Burrell Upchurch family. Also, some of my cousins think Sarah M. McG. U. Bryant, her husband, and their two children, plus her oldest son Burrell are all buried in the Boxelder Cemetery. I'm going to check to see if they find any unmarked graves that might be theirs.

I've sent for info and received very little. I did get answers from Grimes and Walker counties stating there is not a record of Benjamin R. Upchurch and Ola Carter's marriage. Anyway, I'll get what info I have worked up and send to you in next few months.

(no number) From pages 3, 4 of letter 30 Mar 1999 Juanita Ernestine Upchurch to RPU. The segment below is from a five page article on Juanita's Upchurch heritage and concerns **John Tillman Riley Upchurch** and Sarah Margaret McGregor.

John Tillman Riley Upchurch was the youngest of Burrell's children and is our great great grandfather. He was born 19 Feb 1829 in Clark Co., AL. He married Sarah Dudley Mary Hester Margaret Scott McGregor. They lived in Choctaw Co., AL. The 1850 census lists J.T.R. Upchurch as family #443:

John T.	Age: 22	Born: AL	Occup: Planter Value 500
Sarah M.	21	AL	Wife
Burrell T.	2	AL	Son
John B.	1	AL	Son

A planter is an old Virginia term which implies the planter oversees at least a thousand acres. At the time Burrell came to AL, the river bottom land along the Tombigee river was selling around 5 cents to 6 cents an acre.

John Tillman Riley died 11 Jan 1851. He is buried near Yantley in Choctaw Co., AL.

Sarah Margaret McGregor was born in Marengo Co., AL on 15 Aug 1829 to William Turner McGregor and his wife Ellender Allen.

Sarah M. Upchurch came to TX with members of her family, including her brother John McGregor and his wife Alice Rosser around the last part of 1851 or the first part of 1852. John and Alice's son William Turner McGregor was born 26 Jul 1852 in Bowie Co., TX.

Family history passed down was that Sarah M. did not receive any property that belonged to her husband. His brothers obtained the property under the old English law in effect in AL at that time. Sarah M. left her sons with a woman in AL with the idea she would come to TX and get settled, then return for the boys.

The story goes that Sarah M. settled on the east side of Shawnee Creek east of the two-story home later built by John B. Some of us remember seeing the old log cabin in ruins.

Sarah M. married a Benajah Bryan in 1855. He was a bachelor and owned land on west side of Shawnee Creek beginning at the northern edge of present day Baird property, excluding the Gaines property, down past the east road running past the old homestead.

This union produced two children, Fleurette born 30 Oct 1856. She died 19 April 1869. A son Benajah Windfield born 18 Jan 1858. He died 19 May 1860. Sarah's husband Benajah Bryan died 6 Nov 1858. Sarah M. inherited his property. Benjamin Riley told that his father, John B. came to Texas in a covered wagon when he was twelve (12) years old. This would have been around 1860 or 1861.

Pioneer life had to be difficult for everyone, especially for a woman trying to operate a farm by herself. She had to be strong, determined and hard working to be successful. Sarah was active in the community. She was a founding member of the Salem Baptist Church formed at Boxelder 1856. She was knowledgeable about herbs and ministered to the neighbors in need. Her mode of transportation was riding horseback using a sidesaddle. Sarah M. assisted with running the farm and helping with the grandchildren until her death 23 Jan 1899. The older grandchildren talked more about their grandmother than they did their mother. They called her Grandmaw Bryant.

(no number) See pages 23-83 of letter 17 Dec 1999 Charles John Peterson Jr to RPU. Output from Rootsweb.

Birth Name	Born	Where	Died	Where	Submitter
Upchurch,					
J. Mack	Mar 1867				beamr
James Aaron	13 Mar 1903		6 Dec 1970		beamr
James Darrell	14 Dec 1934	Anchor, Layfette, MS			csaflags
James Doris	28 Aug 1913	Layfette, Mississippi	18 Jul 1962	Helena, Arkansas	beamer
James E.	1936		Aug 1981		csaflags
James Edward	2 Feb 1929				csaflags
James Edward Jr.	20 Jan 1957				csaflags
James Franklin	26 Aug 1930		17 Dec 1954		beamr

Birth Name	Born	Where	Died	Where	Submitter
James Laton	29 Nov 1849		24 Nov 1852		beamer
James Madison	4 Oct 1846	Brown Co., Illinois, USA	21 Nov 1927	Timewell, USA	annwoolf
James Wade	15 Jun 1984				csaflags
Janice	2 Jan 1935				csaflags
Jeffrey Wayne	18 Apr 1975				csaflags
Jeremiah Wayne	15 Mar 1987				csaflags
Jerry Lemar	26 Dec 1946		26 Feb 1978		csaflags
Jerry Odell	12 Jan 1927	Lamar Co., TX (near Paris)	6 Aug 1951	Rochester, Olmstead Co., Minnesota	rdlemons
Jimmy	Nov 1955				csaflags
John	Sep 1891				beamr
John C.	about 1833		about 1877		csaflags
John C.	Jul 1863				csaflags
John C.	about 1833		about 1877		beamr
John Charles	3 Feb 1922		4 Oct 1988		csaflags
John Henry	20 Aug 1931				csaflags
<u>John Tillman Riley</u>	1829		1851		matthews
John W.	8 Mar 1932		12 Oct 1973		emmitt
Joseph	3 Mar 1843		9 Dec 1845		beamr
Joseph Wesley	1 Oct 1850	Monticello, Wayne Co., KY	22 Dec 1908	Hominy, Osage Co., OK	gmcflc
“Josie”	26 Dec 1908	Hominy, Osage Co., OK	29 Dec 1962	Hominy, Osage Co., OK	gmcflc
Joyce Ann	3 Aug 1939				csaflags